

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

75 Davis Street
Providence, R.I. 02908

Superfund Records Center
SITE: Ciba-Geigy
BREAK: 19.00
OTHER: 651257

RECEIVED

DEC 8 1986

REGION I
WASTE MGMT. DIVISION

1 December 1986

Mr. Merrill S. Hohman, Director
Air and Hazardous Materials Division
Environmental Protection Agency
John F. Kennedy Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203

Dear Mr. Hohmann:

This letter will update you concerning RCRA activities surrounding Ciba Geigy Corporation in Cranston and inform you of our positions regarding those activities.

Ciba Geigy, by virtue of being an interim status (now permitted) facility, is subject to the corrective action process. As you know, this process is designed to investigate releases of hazardous waste or hazardous waste constituents from solid waste management units and provide for corrective action when these releases threaten human health or the environment. Ciba Geigy is one of approximately 20 facilities in Rhode Island subject to this process. Ciba Geigy has closed its manufacturing operations in Cranston but will maintain a laboratory. The company is now in the process of dismantling the chemical manufacturing plant.

As a result of Ciba Geigy closing, there is concern of potential environmental harm at both the state and city level. The State of Rhode Island and City of Cranston have established commissions to monitor the closing. The Director of this Department by resolution of the General Assembly is a member of the State Commission.

It is the position of this Department and I believe it is your intention that EPA conduct as far reaching and thorough corrective action investigation as possible. Any remedial action called for by this investigation should be done in a timely manner.

I understand that EPA is now in the RCRA facility assessment phase of the corrective action process. I've learned from your staff that EPA plans to issue a Scope of Work to its contractor to conduct a sampling program at the facility. I believe that this action is appropriate. My staff and the members of the commissions will appreciate the opportunity to comment on this work plan. Also when the investigation begins, my staff will be ready to assist your staff or contractor as appropriate.



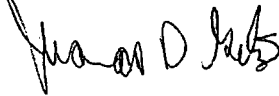
SEMS DocID 651257

250

I would like to inform you that we have recently received results of soil sampling in the area surrounding Ciba-Geigy performed by this Department (these have previously been given to your staff). The results show that compounds used or manufactured at Ciba Geigy were found in the soil off site. It is our intention to conduct another round of sampling in the near future. The results of these samplings may be useful to you as the corrective action process continues.

I will keep you informed of developments as they occur on the state level. I would like to thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,



Thomas D. Getz, Chief
Division of Air & Hazardous Materials

TDG:SM:jlq

cc: Mary-Jane O'Donnell, EPA
Rep. Irving Levin
Eric Palazzo, Administrative Director
Wallace Gernt.
Senator Jack Reed
Robert L. Bendick, RI DEM

TDG-MHOH/jlg4